

IDDRSI COUNTRY PROGRESS SUMMARY REPORT

SOMALIA



IDDRSI

IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative



Photo: C. Bukania

The Country Programming Paper (CPP) of Somalia aims to enhance livelihoods resilience to drought in Somalia by taking advantage of the positive direction realised in the emerging strategies of the development partners, and their focus on developing joint interlinked strategies. The CPP is in line with the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) 15-year regional strategy for ending drought emergencies in the region.

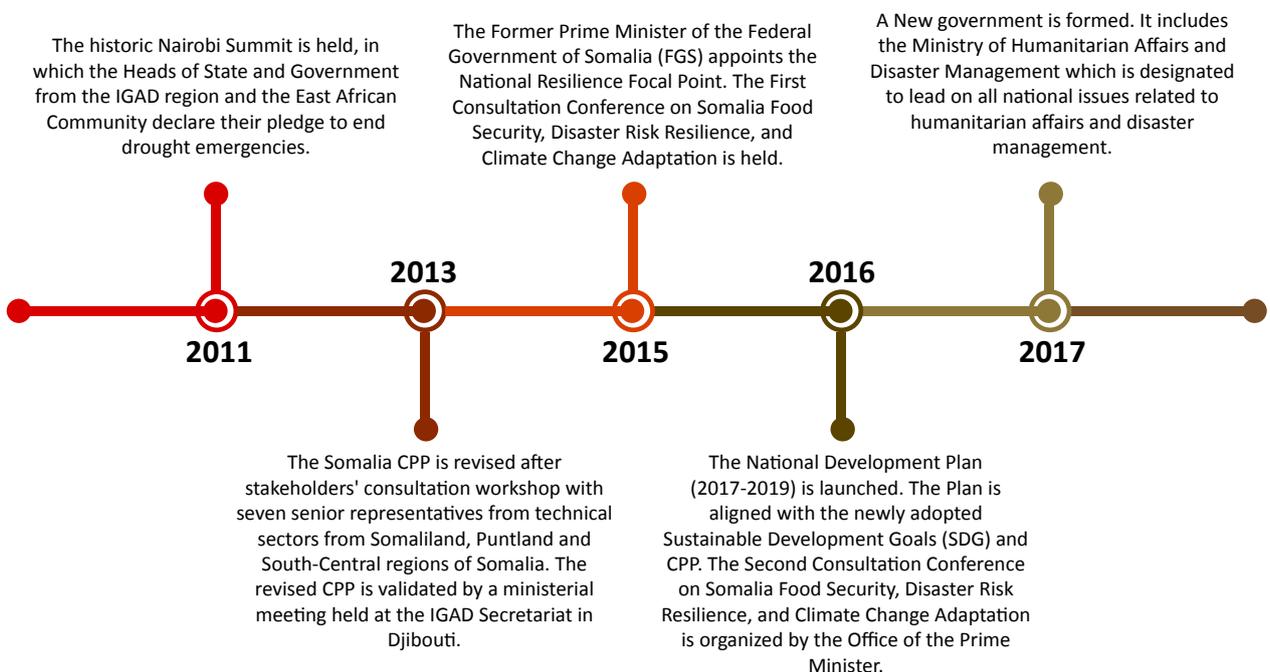
COUNTRY CONTEXT

Somalia is a pivotal 637,540 km² land mass occupying most of the strategic coastline of the Horn of Africa, with 9% suitable for cultivation, 17% woodland, 45% for grazing and 29% for other uses. Per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated at USD 450 in 2014, making Somalia the fifth poorest country in world.

Somalia's economy has shown remarkable resilience after two decades of conflict and weak central government. The economic conditions have been improving since 2012. The real

GDP rose by 3.7% in 2014 to USD 5.7 billion. Economic growth further increased to USD 6 billion in 2015. The economy is being accelerated by growth in agriculture and fisheries and a resurgent private sector, notably in the services industry such as telecommunications, construction and money transfer. Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Somalia totalled USD 1.3 billion in 2016. At USD 113 million, domestic revenue represented just 2% of GDP in the same year. With an ODA to GDP ratio of 21%, Somalia is a highly aid dependent country.

KEY NATIONAL IDDRSI EVENTS



POLICY FRAMEWORK

Since September 2013, the New Deal Compact for Somalia served as the country's comprehensive development and political roadmap. It built the foundation for the country to develop the National Development Plan (2017-2019). This comprehensive plan – the first since 1986, is aligned with the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and IDDRSI CPP. The Resilience Chapter included in the Plan is an achievement that illustrates high political will to back the resilience agenda at national level.

The Somalia Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) will be the first to be developed within the provisional framework of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia. It focuses on enhancing state capacity for peace, security and good governance, economic growth, basic social services and welfare, infrastructure development, public administration and cross-cutting areas.

The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has also developed the Economic Recovery Plan (2014-15) and Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform Action Plan (2013), and has produced annual budgets since 2013. Many policies, laws and strategies have been developed to improve the lives of vulnerable communities as per the mandate of each institution which is involved directly or indirectly in resilience activities in the country.

NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM

The Somalia IDDRSI Platform Coordination Mechanism is a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral platform that aims to provide guidance and technical support in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of components of the national drought resilience program. The Platform Coordination unit is currently hosted by the Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range. The National Resilience Focal Point was appointed in 2015 by the Former Prime Minister of FGS

National Steering Committee (NSC)

- Consists of line ministers that are relevant to the implementation of IDDRSI Priority Intervention Areas (PIAs);
- Functions are to provide directives, mobilise resources for the identified PIAs, play a key role in coordinating interventions, support capacity development, promote information and knowledge sharing and report to the chair of the Committee, the Council of Ministers and National Legislative Bodies (Upper House and Parliament).

Technical Committee

- Made up of the Director Generals/Permanent Secretaries of relevant line ministries, key technical development partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and private sector representatives;
- Functions include supervision of the implementation of IDDRSI, guiding resource mobilisation and coordinating resource allocation, monitoring progress, and reporting to the National Ministerial Steering Committee.

Task Teams

- Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder teams consisting of senior and technical employees of government line ministries and agencies, focal points of regional governments, development partners and technical representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and private sector;
- Their role is to plan, coordinate and communicate with the stakeholders. They organise meetings and workshops, collect and analyse data, conduct field visits, disseminate information, and report the progress of IDDRSI implementation to the Technical Committee;

The function of the coordination mechanism is hampered by lack of budget allocations. However, since 2015, resilience coordination meetings have been held at Director General/ Permanent Secretary level led by the National Resilience Focal Point at the office of the Prime Minister. Monthly technical meetings on disaster management coordination are led by the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) for the directors/technocrats from over 10 Federal Ministries which are involved in disaster resilience programmes.

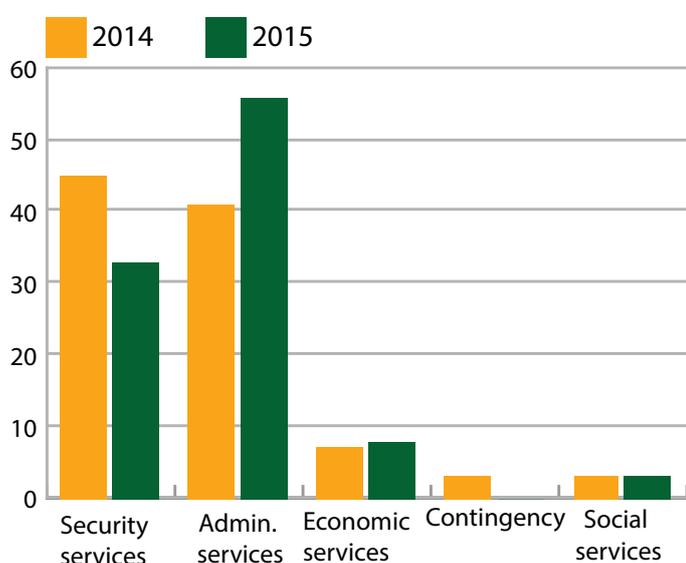


Beekeeping to buffer against economic shocks caused by natural hazards in Somaliland. Photo: SEED

INVESTMENTS IN RESILIENCE BUILDING SINCE 2011

There have been increased investments in resilience programmes since 2011, mainly by development partners. Government efforts were mainly on mobilisation and fund raising through international conferences on Somali issues; for example the Brussels Conference in 2013, London Conferences in 2012, 2013 and 2017 and Istanbul Conferences in 2012 and 2013.

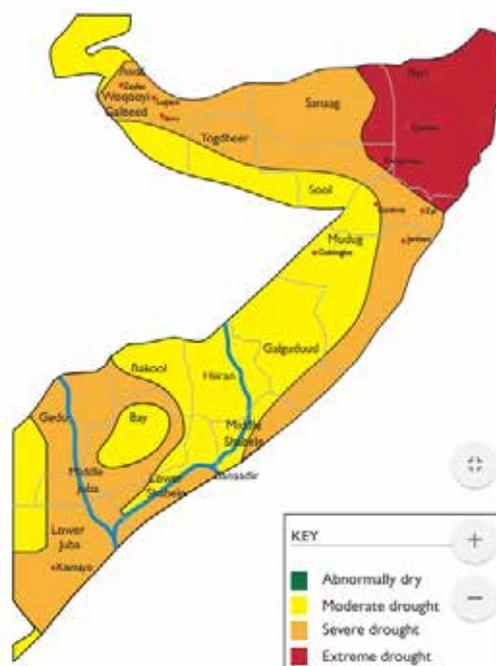
With regard to government spending, the administrative and security sectors account for more than 85% of total expenditure. Together, the economic and social services sectors account for only about 10% of total expenditure. Recurrent expenditures account for almost all government expenditure, with capital spending accounting for just 2% of total spending in 2015. Recurrent expenditure increased from USD 117.4 million in 2013 to USD 150.9 million in 2014, before declining to USD 133.1 million in 2015; it averaged 3.4% of GDP during this period. FGS expenditures are dominated by wages and salaries, which accounted for 44% of expenditures in 2013 and 51% in 2014. Total expenditure in 2016 is estimated at USD 246.3 million, with compensation of employees projected to increase to 49% of total spending in 2016 (up from 41% in 2015).



Source: Somalia Ministry of Finance

On-budget donor funding fell from USD 61 million in 2014 to USD 27 million in 2015. As a result, total revenue declined 3%, after having increased 24% the previous year. Development partners' contributions to the budget have been critical, but they can be unpredictable, making it difficult to execute the budget. Only 32% of donor commitments were realised in 2015, down from 83% in 2014. Bilateral donors executed only 8% of their commitments in 2015; multilaterals executed 48%. Total donor funding was budgeted to increase to USD 107 million in 2016.

RESPONDING DIFFERENTLY TO DROUGHT



Disclaimer: The country borders shown on the map are only indicative and do not represent the position of IGAD.

The drought of 2010/2011 claimed 260,000 lives in Somalia. Out of an estimated population of 12.3 million, 2.3 million people remained highly vulnerable to external shocks and at risk of sliding into food security crisis. The delayed response to the warnings of crisis issued from 2010 starkly demonstrated the limits of the international humanitarian community as well as the extent of inadequate efforts to build resilience in the years prior to the famine.

The drought of 2016/2017 affected around 6.2 million people from the largely pastoral arid lands of the north through the central and southern breadbaskets across the entire country. The drought was caused by the poor Gu rainy season from April-June 2016 and a failed Deyr rainy season from October-December 2016.

Despite monthly warning bulletins as early as the beginning of 2016, response from the international donor community was slow. At the national level, FGS set up a National Drought Response Committee led by the Deputy Prime Minister, and comprising all the relevant federal and regional state ministries, religious leaders, private sector and CSOs. The committee's mandate was to undertake awareness campaigns, to collect emergency aid and to coordinate with regional drought committees.

Following the formation of the new government in February 2017, His Excellency Federal President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmaajo" convened a high-level roundtable meeting in Mogadishu on 28 February 2017. The drought was declared a national disaster, and international aid agencies and the people of Somalia were called upon to extend life-saving humanitarian assistance to the affected populations.

Different segments of the society played a key role in the drought response. Informal community-level drought committees were formed under the leadership of religious leaders who used both social and mainstream media outlets to raise funds. The telecommunication companies in Somalia played a key role to provide assistance to the affected communities by providing aid through its branches across the regions with minimal bureaucracy, administration costs and logistical challenges. Diaspora groups also set up aid committees based on regions of origin and transferred funds through reliable local intermediaries who provided aid directly to the intended recipients.

International initiatives, such as Love Army for Somalia set up by global celebrities, collected over USD 2 million in a few days. They convinced Turkish Airlines to provide them with planes to fly in emergency relief for free. Countless other individual efforts through Facebook and Twitter and informal social networks on WhatsApp and Viber raised a significant amount of money for the drought-affected communities in all regions. Individuals and families, students at schools and universities also played a key role.

KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Previously, weak institutions hampered the involvement of FGS and grassroots communities in the resilience programs administered by INGOs and UN Agencies. However, with the established National Coordination Mechanism, more effort should be made by stakeholders to strengthen the role of FGS in improving coordination and collaboration.

Due to insecurity in some parts of the country, resilience programmes implemented by INGOs and the UN are focussed on areas controlled by government. This has excluded some vulnerable communities in disaster prone areas from accessing humanitarian and resilience building support. The FGS has an opportunity to overcome this gap by investing in the security sector to enable accessibility to those areas, and implement resilience programs when security permits. In this regard, FGS and its partners signed a security pact, which they presented as a road map towards building a functional national army capable of taking over the security of the country.

FGS and regional states do not have sufficient resources to implement resilience programs. With the prevailing political

will, there is an opportunity for them to implement resilience programmes. IGAD and FGS are called upon to mobilise regional and international support both in terms of building the capacity of the government institutions and through direct support from donors to support the implementation of the CPP.

Mobilisation of the resources and implementation of resilience Programs through operationalisation of the Special Somaliland Development Fund and Somalia Stabilisation Funds are key processes which point to the possibility of the success and focus of the CPP. The Somaliland Development Fund focuses on realisation of joint programming towards development and resilience building in Somalia.

FGS and its regional states should endeavour to develop a national resilience policy, mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures appropriately into assistance programs and develop regional strategies in line with the priorities of the NDP.

The private sector and the Somali diaspora communities should be encouraged to double their generous support to vulnerable communities and participate significantly in the development of rural and urban areas.

Looking forward to the implementation of IDDRSI in the next five years, it is essential to link humanitarian assistance with resilience programs, to ensure that additional funding and resource mobilisation required for the implementation and coordination of IDDRSI and to invest in the resilience pillars of Somali National Development Plan.

Download full report:
<http://www.resilience.igad.int>

Contacts

IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)
Platform Coordination Unit (PCU)
Avenue Georges Clemenceau P.O. Box 2653 Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti
info@igad.int
Tel: +253-21354050
Fax: +253-21356994

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